



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation May 2017

Unemployment rate decrease continues, number of unemployed drops below 100,000

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May fell to its lowest rate since December 2000. The rate dropped to 4.1 percent in May from 4.3 percent in April.

The number of unemployed dropped by 4,932 to 96,526, the lowest level since April 2001, while the number of individuals working across the state showed little change, sliding down by 513 to 2,232,168. The state's labor force decreased by 5,445 to 2,328,694 people in May.

Since May 2016, employment grew by 51,642, the labor force increased by 31,655 people, and the level of unemployed decreased 19,987.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined from 4.4 percent in April to 4.3 percent in May.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

In May 2017, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,600 over the month to a record high level of 2,080,900.

- Job gains were reported in Professional and Business Services (+2,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,300); Construction (+1,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+1,100); and Other Services (+100).
- Industries reporting decreases were Financial Activities (-800); Manufacturing (-400); Government (-400); and Information (-100).

Compared to May 2016, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 32,700.

- Industry increases were registered in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,400); Manufacturing (+7,400); Education and Health Services (+4,800); Construction (+4,400); Government (+2,900); Professional and Business Services (+2,800); and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,600).
- Decreases were reported in Information (-1,200); Other Services (-500); and Financial Activities (-100).

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 18,000 from April 2017 to May 2017 for a total of 2,098,000.

- Professional and Business Services and Leisure and Hospitality each gained (+6,400). Growth also occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,700); Construction (+1,900); Other Services (+500); and Mining and Logging (+100). Education and Health Services remained steady.
- Financial Activities (-400); Government (-400); Manufacturing (-100); and Information (-100) all saw losses during May.

Over-the-year, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 30,500 overall in South Carolina.

- Industries marking gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,400); Manufacturing (+7,500); Construction (+4,800); Education and Health Services (+4,700); Professional and Business Services (+4,300); Government (+2,600) Leisure and Hospitality (+400); and Mining and Logging (+200).
- Decreases were reported in the Information (-1,200); Financial Activities (-600); and Other Services (-600) sectors.

¹**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.

²**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
May 2017**

Industry	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	April 2017 to May 2017		May 2016 to May 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,080,900	2,073,300	2,048,200	7,600	0.37%	32,700	1.60%
Construction	98,000	96,200	93,600	1,800	1.84%	4,400	4.70%
Manufacturing	244,700	245,100	237,300	-400	-0.16%	7,400	3.12%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	402,600	401,500	393,200	1,100	0.27%	9,400	2.39%
Information	26,000	26,100	27,200	-100	-0.38%	-1,200	-4.41%
Financial Activities	100,000	100,800	100,100	-800	-0.80%	-100	-0.10%
Professional and Business Services	271,000	268,200	268,200	2,800	1.03%	2,800	1.04%
Education and Health Services	245,800	244,700	241,000	1,100	0.45%	4,800	1.99%
Leisure and Hospitality	249,300	247,000	246,700	2,300	0.92%	2,600	1.05%
Other Services	73,700	73,600	74,200	100	0.14%	-500	-0.67%
Government	365,400	365,800	362,500	-400	-0.11%	2,900	0.80%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
May 2017**

Industry	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	April 2017 to May 2017		May 2016 to May 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	2,098,000	2,080,000	2,067,500	18,000	0.87%	30,500	1.48%
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,300	4,200	100	2.33%	200	4.76%
Construction	98,900	97,000	94,100	1,900	1.96%	4,800	5.10%
Manufacturing	245,200	245,300	237,700	-100	-0.04%	7,500	3.16%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	402,200	398,500	393,800	3,700	0.93%	8,400	2.13%
Information	26,100	26,200	27,300	-100	-0.38%	-1,200	-4.40%
Financial Activities	100,000	100,400	100,600	-400	-0.40%	-600	-0.60%
Professional and Business Services	273,500	267,100	269,200	6,400	2.40%	4,300	1.60%
Education and Health Services	246,700	246,700	242,000	0	0.00%	4,700	1.94%
Leisure and Hospitality	257,400	251,000	257,000	6,400	2.55%	400	0.16%
Other Services	74,200	73,700	74,800	500	0.68%	-600	-0.80%
Government	369,400	369,800	366,800	-400	-0.11%	2,600	0.71%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted May 2017

Area	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	April 2017 to May 2017		May 2016 to May 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,080,900	2,073,300	2,048,200	7,600	0.37%	32,700	1.60%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	353,000	352,000	344,400	1,000	0.28%	8,600	2.50%
Columbia MSA	396,800	395,900	394,100	900	0.23%	2,700	0.69%
Florence MSA	89,800	89,200	87,200	600	0.67%	2,600	2.98%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	412,300	410,400	408,800	1,900	0.46%	3,500	0.86%
Myrtle Beach MSA	167,200	166,400	159,500	800	0.48%	7,700	4.83%
Spartanburg MSA	150,800	150,400	146,200	400	0.27%	4,600	3.15%
Sumter MSA	38,800	39,000	39,200	-200	-0.52%	-400	-1.02%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Not Seasonally Adjusted May 2017

Area	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	April 2017 to May 2017		May 2016 to May 2017	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,098,000	2,080,000	2,067,500	18,000	0.87%	30,500	1.48%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	355,300	352,300	347,600	3,000	0.85%	7,700	2.22%
Columbia MSA	398,700	397,000	394,900	1,700	0.43%	3,800	0.96%
Florence MSA	90,300	89,500	88,000	800	0.89%	2,300	2.61%
Greenville MSA	414,400	411,300	410,800	3,100	0.75%	3,600	0.88%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	78,700	77,500	77,700	1,200	1.55%	1,000	1.29%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	172,700	168,200	165,700	4,500	2.68%	7,000	4.22%
Spartanburg MSA	151,100	150,400	146,800	700	0.47%	4,300	2.93%
Sumter MSA	39,000	39,300	39,400	-300	-0.76%	-400	-1.02%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		May 2017				April 2017				May 2016			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Bamberg County	↓	5,188	4,841	347	6.7	5,192	4,838	354	6.8	5,304	4,881	423	8.0
Allendale County	↓	2,636	2,468	168	6.4	2,633	2,462	171	6.5	2,683	2,476	207	7.7
Marion County	↓	12,755	11,965	790	6.2	12,769	11,912	857	6.7	12,859	11,876	983	7.6
Marlboro County	↓	9,106	8,580	526	5.8	9,127	8,585	542	5.9	9,318	8,590	728	7.8
Orangeburg County	↓	34,905	32,871	2,034	5.8	34,932	32,827	2,105	6.0	35,927	33,253	2,674	7.4
Barnwell County	↓	8,273	7,846	427	5.2	8,330	7,892	438	5.3	8,407	7,873	534	6.4
Williamsburg County	↓	12,482	11,835	647	5.2	12,507	11,825	682	5.5	12,660	11,767	893	7.1
Chester County	↑	13,868	13,166	702	5.1	13,826	13,136	690	5.0	13,683	12,777	906	6.6
Lee County	↓	6,476	6,145	331	5.1	6,523	6,157	366	5.6	6,534	6,115	419	6.4
Fairfield County	—	10,018	9,521	497	5.0	10,044	9,540	504	5.0	10,144	9,439	705	6.9
Clarendon County	↓	12,837	12,203	634	4.9	12,858	12,196	662	5.1	13,071	12,274	797	6.1
Dillon County	↓	12,792	12,178	614	4.8	12,792	12,162	630	4.9	12,863	12,042	821	6.4
Sumter County	↓	43,854	41,826	2,028	4.6	44,367	42,273	2,094	4.7	44,353	41,963	2,390	5.4
Darlington County	↑	30,504	29,135	1,369	4.5	30,420	29,082	1,338	4.4	30,156	28,477	1,679	5.6
Georgetown County	↓	25,720	24,553	1,167	4.5	25,624	24,405	1,219	4.8	25,612	24,086	1,526	6.0
Calhoun County	↓	6,907	6,612	295	4.3	6,917	6,614	303	4.4	6,938	6,568	370	5.3
Union County	—	11,766	11,257	509	4.3	11,776	11,273	503	4.3	11,702	10,968	734	6.3
Cherokee County	—	23,473	22,485	988	4.2	23,503	22,523	980	4.2	23,412	22,140	1,272	5.4
Greenwood County	↑	31,228	29,988	1,240	4.0	31,214	29,995	1,219	3.9	31,676	30,221	1,455	4.6
Abbeville County	—	10,286	9,886	400	3.9	10,270	9,873	397	3.9	10,471	9,950	521	5.0
Colleton County	—	17,121	16,457	664	3.9	17,051	16,387	664	3.9	16,957	16,083	874	5.2
Edgefield County	—	10,713	10,290	423	3.9	10,915	10,494	421	3.9	10,828	10,246	582	5.4
Florence County	↓	66,828	64,226	2,602	3.9	66,725	64,043	2,682	4.0	65,818	62,609	3,209	4.9
Horry County	↓	146,782	141,021	5,761	3.9	144,395	138,544	5,851	4.1	142,519	135,545	6,974	4.9
Kershaw County	—	29,264	28,123	1,141	3.9	29,333	28,183	1,150	3.9	29,247	27,874	1,373	4.7
Lancaster County	↓	38,269	36,772	1,497	3.9	38,176	36,647	1,529	4.0	37,519	35,672	1,847	4.9
McCormick County	—	3,393	3,262	131	3.9	3,403	3,271	132	3.9	3,424	3,244	180	5.3
Chesterfield County	↓	22,062	21,238	824	3.7	21,999	21,172	827	3.8	22,034	21,047	987	4.5
Hampton County	↓	8,219	7,912	307	3.7	8,185	7,874	311	3.8	8,411	7,949	462	5.5
Laurens County	—	30,363	29,254	1,109	3.7	30,315	29,185	1,130	3.7	30,395	28,967	1,428	4.7
Oconee County	↑	34,425	33,192	1,233	3.6	34,366	33,154	1,212	3.5	34,705	33,078	1,627	4.7
Pickens County	↑	56,669	54,651	2,018	3.6	56,503	54,555	1,948	3.4	56,530	54,027	2,503	4.4
Richland County	↑	201,171	193,891	7,280	3.6	201,876	194,716	7,160	3.5	200,345	191,559	8,786	4.4
Aiken County	↑	74,318	71,722	2,596	3.5	76,043	73,465	2,578	3.4	74,565	71,085	3,480	4.7
Anderson County	↑	89,529	86,513	3,016	3.4	89,388	86,424	2,964	3.3	89,271	85,552	3,719	4.2
Beaufort County	↓	73,914	71,413	2,501	3.4	73,253	70,719	2,534	3.5	73,505	70,480	3,025	4.1
Spartanburg County	—	144,379	139,461	4,918	3.4	144,634	139,762	4,872	3.4	141,867	135,833	6,034	4.3
York County	—	132,592	128,108	4,484	3.4	132,166	127,681	4,485	3.4	129,548	124,117	5,431	4.2
Berkeley County	—	97,143	93,948	3,195	3.3	97,147	93,936	3,211	3.3	95,699	91,684	4,015	4.2
Saluda County	—	8,891	8,596	295	3.3	8,861	8,567	294	3.3	9,009	8,635	374	4.2
Dorchester County	↓	75,519	73,076	2,443	3.2	75,494	73,035	2,459	3.3	74,404	71,343	3,061	4.1
Greenville County	↑	246,659	238,775	7,884	3.2	246,308	238,587	7,721	3.1	245,471	236,029	9,442	3.8
Newberry County	—	18,983	18,368	615	3.2	18,961	18,361	600	3.2	19,257	18,432	825	4.3
Jasper County	—	12,232	11,849	383	3.1	12,020	11,646	374	3.1	12,194	11,725	469	3.8
Lexington County	↑	147,600	143,081	4,519	3.1	147,879	143,410	4,469	3.0	147,145	141,635	5,510	3.7
Charleston County	↓	206,740	200,645	6,095	2.9	206,273	200,086	6,187	3.0	203,541	196,028	7,513	3.7
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	—	379,402	367,669	11,733	3.1	378,914	367,057	11,857	3.1	373,644	359,055	14,589	3.9
Columbia MSA	↑	403,851	389,824	14,027	3.5	404,910	391,030	13,880	3.4	402,828	385,710	17,118	4.2
Florence MSA	—	97,332	93,361	3,971	4.1	97,145	93,125	4,020	4.1	95,974	91,086	4,888	5.1
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	—	423,220	409,193	14,027	3.3	422,514	408,751	13,763	3.3	421,667	404,575	17,092	4.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,328,694	2,232,168	96,526	4.1	2,334,139	2,232,681	101,458	4.3	2,297,039	2,180,526	116,513	5.1

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
— Unemployment Rate =